

MAY OBSERVE THE TIPPECANOE CENTENNIAL

Lafayette, Ind., Nov. 7.—Today was the 96th anniversary of the battle of Tippecanoe, the greatest in that long series of struggle for supremacy between the paleface settlers of the then new west and the redskin aborigines. Many patriotic people today paid pilgrimages to the historic spot where, in 1811, William Henry Harrison broke the power of Tecumseh's great confederacy of the Northwestern tribe and won that military fame that later led to the presidency. A movement will soon be set on foot to celebrate, in a fitting manner, the centennial of the battle four years hence.

The battleground is eight miles from Lafayette and is owned by the state of Indiana. It is surrounded by an iron fence, and over the arched entrance is the single inscription: "Battle of Tippecanoe, November 7, 1811." An appropriation has been made by the state of Indiana to provide for the erection of a suitable monument to those early heroes who took part in the memorable battle.

Aside from the iron fence, the battleground presents today almost the same scene of idyllic and rustic beauty as it did ninety-six years ago. Although a trolley line extends from the city of Lafayette to the grounds, and there are other evidences of American progress in the vicinity the ground itself is very much as described by Harrison in 1811:

"A place of dry oak land rising about ten feet above the level of a marshy prairie in front, toward the town of the prophet, and nearly twice that height as Burnet's creek, bordered by willows and brushwood."

It was to this point that William Henry Harrison, then governor of Indiana territory, marched with his troops from Vincennes, then a rude fort with a few log huts and dignified the name of territorial capital. All through the summer of 1811 Governor Harrison had been receiving from his scouts wild rumors of a terrible Indian uprising, which was to result in the "elimination" by the gentle methods then practiced by Poor Lo, of all the whites west of the Alleghenies. Two Shawnee brothers, known as Tecumseh and the Prophet, the latter a religious fanatic and medicine man, were the arch conspirators of the redskin uprising, and had planned a great confederacy of the Northwestern Indiana and the Creeks and allied tribes of the south. Before Tecumseh had completed his plans for a confederacy, his brother, out of religious zeal, decided to take matters in his own hands. He organized a body of redskins so large as to constitute, in Harrison's opinion, a menace to the territory, and with less than a thousand men, he marched to what was afterward the scene of the memorable battle. Trained Indian fighters, including, besides two battalions of regulars, many volunteers from Ohio, Kentucky and Indiana, made up the little army. The campaign ground of the Prophet was reached on November 6, and the Indian leader proposed a truce until the next day. Harrison accepted, and encamped his men for the night on the oak ridge. Every man slept on his gun, expecting a night attack. Nor were their fears of Indian treachery groundless.

After religious exercises, which, he promised his braves, would render them invulnerable to the bullets of the palefaces' guns, the Prophet gave the order to attack the camp of the whites. At 4 o'clock of the morning of November 7, 1811, the battle began. Stephen Mars, a white sentry, who was brained at his post, but not before he fired an alarming shot, was the first victim. The combat which followed was the most terrible in the history of Indian warfare. In blackest darkness, which made it impossible to distinguish friend from foe, the brave backwoodsmen fought hand to hand with the braves of the fanatical Prophet. The muskets of the whites were almost useless, except as clubs, and the battle became a duel to the death between struggling individuals, with the hunting knife pitted against the tomahawk. The

incantations of the Prophet were of no avail against the fearlessness of the whites, and many a dusky brave began that night the long trip to the happy hunting grounds. When morning came and the palefaces were able to use their guns with effect, the remnants of the Prophet's tribe fled in all directions. Harrison fought with his men in the midst of the terrible night battle, and earned a reputation which was used with great effect in his presidential campaign. The battle was decisive and highly important, in that it gave to the United States the undisputed ownership of the Northwest Territory, embracing the greater portion of what is now the states of Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Wisconsin and Michigan.

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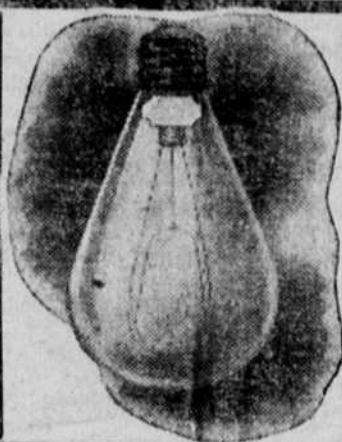
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